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ABSTRACT

This journalism monograph deals with Josiah W. Gitt and his newspaper, "The Gazette and Daily," which existed from 1915 to 1970 and was referred to as "the voice in the wilderness" because of its stand on controversial issues. The monograph discusses the "Gazette and Daily," its views, Gitt's employees, the Progressives, the cold war, the red baiting of Gitt and his newspaper, the Wallace presidency, the Korean War, and the final years of the newspaper's existence (after 1950). The monograph points out that the "Gazette and Daily" became the only daily paper that consistently opposed postwar foreign policy, the only commercial daily newspaper in the nation to support Progressive Party candidate Henry Wallace's bid for the presidency, and the only tabloid newspaper to win the Ayer Cup, the all-class first prize for "excellence in typography, make-up and printing." (EL)

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journalism monographs

NUMBER NINETY-ONE

February 1985

MARY ALLIENNE HAMILTON

J. W. Gitt: The Cold War's "Voice in the Wilderness"

The Gazette and Daily
Will It Get Into Orbit?
Unarmed Nuclear Bomb Hits Suburb In South Carolina
York-Hoover Will Trim Body Plant Force By Third
Jobless Report Ignites New Talk For Tax Reduction
Senate Approves $250 Million More For Soil Bank Aid
RCA Criticized For Knowledge Of Tube Rocket
Eisenhower Takes ... To Revise U.S. Policy On Nuclear Test Ban
Jakarta Forces Control Transport Of American Oil

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MARY ALLIENNE HAMILTON

J. W. Gitt: The Cold War's "Voice in the Wilderness"

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Accepted for Publication January 1985

MARY ALLIENNE HAMILTON is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mass Communication at St. Bonaventure University. She would like to thank Mrs. Elizabeth Moul Gitt, who freely opened her husband's personal papers for research, and Gene Gilmore, who first introduced her to *The Gazette and Daily* in 1960 while she was a graduate student at Syracuse University. She was a reporter on the paper from 1963 to 1966.

IN HIS BOOK *Henry Wallace, Harry Truman, and the Cold War*, journalist-historian Richard J. Walton singled out one letter from the many laudatory messages received by Wallace in March 1947 after his speech criticizing the declaration of the "Truman Doctrine."[1] The letter was from Josiah W. Gitt, publisher of *The Gazette and Daily* in York, Pennsylvania, which in 1948 would become the only commercial daily newspaper in the nation to support Progressive Party candidate Wallace's bid for the Presidency. Walton described that newspaper as "probably the only daily paper in the United States that consistently opposed postwar American foreign policy."[2]

And describing Gitt, he said: "If ever American journalism had a hero it was he, but, alas, his brave newspaper was published in a small Pennsylvania city and not Washington or one of the metropolitan centers. Literally, and sadly, a voice in the wilderness."[3] That biblical phrase as used by Walton evokes a sense of despair, as though Gitt and his newspaper were a voice crying in vain. As originally portrayed in the Book of Isaiah, however, the phrase portrays a positive image:

> There is a voice that cries:
> Prepare a road for the Lord through the wilderness,
> clear a highway across the desert for our God.[4]

That passage is not about a single voice crying in the wilderness where no one will hear, but rather about a public cry of triumph and hope. Thus did J. W. Gitt and his newspaper embody the spirit of such a positive voice in

American journalism for more than half a century, 1915-1970.[5]

During the post-World War II decade of the Cold War, Gitt's voice rang with particular clarity, both in advising through personal correspondence some of the major political and social reform figures of the period and through his newspaper, from which he was inseparable. Sometimes idealistically, sometimes prophetically, but always with an independence so American, Gitt's voice beckoned *The Gazette and Daily*'s readers to follow him through the wilderness to the land promised by the tenets of Jeffersonian democracy. Through the Progressive Party he sought an even larger following, much as had the late nineteenth century populists and those earlier turn-of-the-century Progressives. In order to accept Gitt's unusual voice in the annals of American journalism, however, one must understand not only the era in which he lived but also the milieu in which he "preached".

In geographic terms the "wilderness" setting for Gitt's newspaper was the largely rural county of York in the rolling hills of south-central Pennsylvania. The area is fringed on the east by the Susquehanna River, on the west by Gettysburg, and on the north by Harrisburg, the state capital. In the more relevant political sense, "wilderness" meant the conservative atmosphere of the newspaper's home base, the city of York. Located just 18 miles north of the Mason-Dixon line, it is reckoned by some raconteurs of colonial history to be the first capital of the United States.[6]

Both county and town of York were settled mainly by German immigrants who treasured the isolation their language and customs ensured long after the area had become a distribution center for the nearby industrial corridor of Washington-Baltimore-Harrisburg. Those Pennsylvania Dutch (*Deutsche*) were distrustful of outsiders, especially those who eventually came from all over the country to work on the editorial staff of their morning paper. The town's afternoon paper, *The York Dispatch*, more nearly suited their political views, and to this day that paper retains a make-up style popular around the Civil War period.[7] Although they might not approve of the views espoused by "Jess" Gitt and his newspaper, the last thing Yorkers from either town or county could label the publisher was an "outsider". They knew that the Gitts had been around for generations, though they might not have realized that his Scottish ancestor, James Kidd, had arrived in the area in 1740, settling near the present borough of Hanover, York County, a town Gitt and his family had long called "home".

By the late 1700s the original name of "Kidd" had been changed to "Kitt," and later to "Gitt," to conform to local pronunciation.[8]

Certainly some native Yorkers — those for whom *The Gazette and Daily* had been a political education and those who simply missed it as a *news*paper — mourned its closing in October 1970, as did a larger com-

munity of liberal journalists across the country. Three years later, also in October, when Gitt himself died at the age of 89, tributes written by those who had shared his voice characterized him as one of the last of the personal journalists. His eulogists obviously mourned the passing of an era in American journalism as well as the man. James Higgins, assistant editor of *The Gazette and Daily* from 1950 to 1970 (Gitt reserved the title of editor for himself), wrote in an "op. ed." piece for *The New York Times* that the paper was considered by its owner "not only as 'his' newspaper but as an alter ego." Higgins, who taught journalism at Boston University throughout the 1970s, elaborated:

> Perhaps there are publishers whose sense of identity with their newspaper is as strong as Gitt's was. But I don't know of any, either liberal like Gitt or conservative like, say, Colonel Bertie McCormick during his command tenure at the *Chicago Tribune*. However exasperating such publishers might have been to some of those who worked for them, or to any number of subscribers, their newspapers had the saving grace of character stamped all over their pages. I don't know about *The Tribune* but readers of *The Gazette and Daily* felt that they were not just dealing with printed words but with a human being, Jess Gitt.[9]

Like many other turn-of-the-century Progressives with rural or small-town roots, Gitt was steeped in a life-long belief that Jeffersonian democracy could be made to work for all of society. Yet why did this man think so differently from others of his generation who also could trace pre-Revolution American heritage and could boast a staunch religious upbringing, independent financial security, and a solid secular education? "I don't know what made me different," Gitt once told an interviewer. "Probably my mother and Charles Dickens' novels of social injustice."[10]

Emma Koplin Gitt was a college graduate who encouraged her two children, the other a daughter, to read whenever they had the chance, even at the breakfast table. Gitt's father, Clinton Jacob Gitt, had been educated at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, but instead of fulfilling his desire to study law, he went to work in the family dry goods store in Hanover. He died an alcoholic when his son was only 12 — the reason for the son's being a life-long teetotaler and for refusing alcohol advertising in his newspaper. After Josiah William Gitt was graduated from Franklin and Marshall in 1904, his grandfather sent him to the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Gitt was admitted to the Pennsylvania bar in 1908.[11]

The young lawyer found the courtroom restrictive, however, and did not relish defending clients he knew to be guilty. Nor did he feel that the truth would always win out in the court of law.[12] Gitt soon began to fill in as a court reporter on *The York Gazette*, the town's morning newspaper purchased in 1909 by his uncle, Harry N. Gitt. The paper could trace its lineage to 1795 and the founding of a German weekly, *Die York Gazette*, but it was on the verge of bankruptcy. The elder Gitt was not a

businessman. In an austerity move, he dismissed his nephew as court reporter.[13] On the advice of a Philadelphia lawyer, young Gitt and his senior law partner, Allen C. Weist, purchased *The York Gazette* on January 1, 1915. In June 1918, they bought *The York Daily*, the morning paper of the York Dispatch Company, and combined the two papers to form *The Gazette and Daily*. Weist was president of the York Gazette Company, but by then Gitt had controlling interest in the business.[14]

The Gazette and Daily

The statement of purpose for the new paper, as set forth in its first issue, June 24, 1918, stressed that the owners would strive to publish "the news all the time, without fear or favor, bias or prejudice." Those dozen words remained the front-page motto of *The Gazette and Daily* for the next half a century. The statement of purpose also said:

> ...We shall stand fearlessly for right and justice, under all circumstances and toward all persons, no matter how powerful the forces on the other side may be.
>
> It is our belief that a newspaper is a public servant and that to be permanently successful it must be faithful to the interests of the public it serves. It dare not be selfish. It dare not be mercenary. For its continued success, if for no other reason, must it persistently and sincerely labor on behalf of that public which it serves.[15]

Gitt later became a member of the American Judicature Society and sat on the Pennsylvania advisory board of the Commission on Law and Social Action. But he never returned to the practice of law. "I got to writing editorials, and I never did go back," he explained many years later.[16] Gitt continued to express his editorial voice throughout the paper's last year. One of those editorials, published January 30, 1970, summarized his beliefs as a progressive over the decades:

> It is free enterprise that cut down our trees and destroyed so much of our lumber and paper mill requirements. Regardless of the future. It is free enterprise that overgrazes our grass lands. And it is free enterprise that stops disarmament efforts or did to protect the profits of armament manufacturers.
>
> Some of us have realized for sometime what a blight free enterprise has been. Others of us are just commencing to realize it. It is becoming too late to call those who want an end to it Communists or something similar thereto. It just doesn't work any longer.[17]

Gitt obviously was distressed that free enterprise had endured more as "private" enterprise rather than "free" to allow the fair and equal participation of all in its production and profits. He was opposed to what he called "free enterprise monopoly"; in fact, he was against monopoly control of all types, whether by private business or by the state. Like other progressives, he felt that government should regulate large corporations and make them work in the public interest, but not abolish them entirely.

In his editorials, Gitt continually warned about the dangers inherent in the growth of monopolies.

Although the York publisher shared common values with other Progressive thinkers from the early twentieth century, Gitt was ahead of them in some areas, such as his internationalist viewpoint. Even before 1916 when Woodrow Wilson began to openly support the League of Nations, Gitt had joined a group to promote the concept of a League of Nations to Enforce Peace.[18] Wilson then became Gitt's first Presidential endorsement when *The York Gazette* supported him in 1916.

In a survey of the backgrounds and careers of 260 leaders of the Progressive Party of 1912, Alfred D. Chandler discovered that many of them were urban and middle-class, except in rural areas where editors and lawyers dominated the leadership of the party.[19] Obviously, Gitt fulfilled both of those occupational categories. In many other ways, too, he conformed to a profile of those earlier Progressives. "The right to think for oneself is one of the most precious of human privileges," began one of Gitt's editorials setting forth his ideas on progressivism in 1947.[20] Individual self-worth and self-reliance in the best Jefferson[illegible] tradition were values held in high esteem. Progressives believed t[illegible]ca-tion should be available for everyone so that "the masses" [illegible]ork peaceably toward an equitable society for all. Gitt certainly thou[illegible] of his newspaper as an educational tool, not simply as a medium of information. As Higgins pointed out, there could be no doubt about whose voice echoed throughout the pages of *The Gazette and Daily* (news pages as well as editorials). With a proselytizing zeal, Gitt's voice urged his fellow citizens to carry out the reforms he deemed necessary to ensure a better life for all.

Those earlier Progressives disliked big business; they also distrusted big cities. Many of them had grown up in rural America but later found it necessary to work from urban centers in their professional lives. Gitt, however, refused to move *The Gazette and Daily* to a more urban, and thus presumably more liberal, environment, although he was asked to do so many times by those who wanted to see the paper and its publisher attain greater national prominence. During the 1940s Gitt was offered the opportunity of running the liberal daily *PM* in New York. He responded by informing the publisher, Marshall Field III, that he did not want to live in "that damn big city."[21]

Many Progressives also had been raised in deeply religious families, though they often did not continue to practice religion as adults. Gitt had been raised in the German Reformed Church, but in later life became interested in the Unitarian Church. He frequently said that the editorial policy of *The Gazette and Daily* was based on the Sermon on the Mount, as well as the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence. Thus, the zeal with which many Progressives "spread the word" came as a

natural out-growth from their religious backgrounds.[22]

The fourth cornerstone for the editorial policy of *The Gazette and Daily* was "an international peace-keeping organization to abolish war and substitute arbitration and negotiation and justice." Besides being an ardent supporter of the League of Nations and, later, the United Nations, Gitt believed that the foreign policy of the United States should encourage a peaceful co-existence with Russia, long before *detente* became a household word. In line with his internationalism, Gitt wanted a more equitable distribution of wealth in other countries as well as at home. He thought American-style capitalism should be contained within the boundaries of the United States, however, and constantly argued against any imperialistic policies of the federal government.[23]

The Gazette and Daily was one of the first daily newspapers in the United States to warn that this country should not get involved in a war in Indochina. In the early 1940s Gitt prophesied that such a war would be inevitable, unless American foreign policy changed drastically. By September 1950, he was editorializing:

> The damage that is done when our Congress votes funds for a Franco or when we give aid and comfort to a Chiang Kai-shek or put our approval on French colonialism in Indochina is incalculable.
>
> The people of Asia want no more of colonialism ... When they see us backing these and other oppressors instead of demonstrating that democracy means social justice, physical well-being and spiritual freedom, we are losing, no matter how great our military strength or our wealth and capacity to produce.[24]

Early Progressives stressed the necessity of having a strong national leader to guide the people and the nation on an international scale. Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt fulfilled that role through two world wars. But after World War II, Henry Agard Wallace was seen as the final hope for the extension of those ideals. Those three men, along with Jefferson and Lincoln, were Gitt's heroes, as attested to by the photos and sketches on the walls of his study in his home outside Hanover.

"I'm a Jeffersonian Democrat as were all the Gitts, rich or poor, from way back. But I wasn't so interested in the Democratic Party as I was in the good of the country," Gitt said.[25] In 1924 *The Gazette and Daily* endorsed Progressive Party candidate Robert LaFollette, Sr. And in 1928 Gitt voted for Norman Thomas for President because he thought Democrat Alfred E. Smith was running on a "wet" ticket that did not suit his alcoholic abstinence. By 1932, when Roosevelt came along, Gitt and a few Washington political figures were trying to start a third party. *The Gazette and Daily* did not endorse a candidate in 1932, and there is some speculation that Gitt did not vote for Roosevelt but instead wrote in the name of a personal choice, Washington attorney Huston Thompson, who was in the group trying to start a third party.[25] By the next Presidential

election, however, Gitt and his newspaper were behind Roosevelt and the New Deal.

In many ways, Gitt and his public voice, *The Gazette and Daily*, were a mirror of the Progressive mind. And yet, above all else, Gitt was an independent thinker, a trait which cast his newspaper many cuts above most of the commercial press of its time. And because of its political constancy and longevity under one owner, the York newspaper could be placed above other "liberal" newspapers as well. In The *Press and the Cold War*, James Aronson maintained that "the press of the United States has to a large degree become a voluntary arm of established power."[27] Throughout his book, he mentioned a few exceptions, one of them being *The Gazette and Daily*.

It was during the post-World War II decade of the Cold War that Gitt's morning newspaper made a name for itself on a nationwide scale and, to a certain extent, even internationally. Although press critic George Seldes had often headed his list of "great small-town newspapers" with *The Gazette and Daily*,[28] it was really not until the post-war effort on Gitt's part to build an editorial staff with similar progressive views that the newspaper became renowned in liberal journalistic circles. During the war, the paper had been run with a severely decreased staff, many of whom were young women from York and York County.

In the middle of the war, the newspaper also had gone from standard size to a tabloid in order to save newsprint. It was "tabloid" in size only, however, and not in the sense that description of a newspaper has come to mean. Its five-column pages were chockful of local news stories, as well as national and international news. A special county section ensured high circulation within the small towns and farming areas covering an extensive radius around York. (Its morning paper status also meant same-day delivery to those areas, something that the opposition afternoon paper could not guarantee.) *The Gazette and Daily*'s front page became a model of how a tabloid paper should look, with its symmetrically laid out columns of news, bank headlines, photos, and a daily cartoon by Walt Partymiller, the paper's own editorial cartoonist for 25 years.

The Gazette and Daily won the N. W. Ayer award as the best looking tabloid newspaper in the United States four years in a row, 1946-1949, and again in 1960. The Ayer Cup, the all-class first prize for "excellence in typography, make-up and printing," was awarded to the March 12, 1958, edition.[29] It was the only tabloid newspaper ever to win that distinction, and Gitt received many requests from newspaper publishers all over the country wanting to see his paper so they could get ideas from it. One such request came from *The News*, "New York's Picture Newspaper."[30]

Progressive journalists from across the country had become aware of *The Gazette and Daily* mainly through its famous "op. ed." page — that

"invaluable source of information" as *Village Voice* columnist Nat Hentoff described it.[31] That page contained material reprinted from the progressive journals, periodicals and newsletters (such as the *Nation*, the *New Republic*, the *Progressive*, Seldes' *in fact* during the 1940s, and *I. F. Stone's Weekly* in the 1950s and 1960s), stories from wire services with a more liberal viewpoint (such as the labor service, Federated Press), and many articles written specifically for *The Gazette and Daily*. The page also provided a voice for many journalists who would otherwise have been stilled for many years — those black-listed during the McCarthy era and "red scare" years preceding it.

Gitt did not pay much for the articles written specifically for his "op. ed." page — anywhere from $5 to $30, depending on the writer and the circumstances. He willingly gave press credentials to almost any journalist who asked for them, provided they supply him with material from their trips abroad, often from "behind the iron curtain." That is probably how the story started that *The Gazette and Daily* was the only American newspaper read in Moscow. At any rate, it did have a reputation in Europe and other countries as being one of the few members of the U.S. press which would print points of view other than those of established power authorities.[32]

The "op. ed." page also carried the "Letters to the Editor" column, many of them from York countians whose views directly opposed the material printed above. How many of the paper's area readers actually read the "op. ed." page is not known. Their comments in the "Letters" were more likely to be about the news stories or editorials, the latter being a locally oriented "Food for Thought" written by the city editor or Gitt's son, Charles M. Gitt, and an editorial commenting on national and international issues written by Gitt and, from 1950 on, mostly by Higgins. That page also carried Drew Pearson's "Washington Merry-Go-Round" and beneath it "News from the Past," also locally oriented.

Gitt's Employees

Besides hiring journalists from afar whose political views agreed with editorial policy, Gitt made an effort to build up the city-side staff with reporters who had roots in the area and would be likely to stay, rather than move on to larger city newspapers. (Sports and county desks generally were composed of natives to the area.) One of the women hired during World War II to replace editorial staffers who had been drafted was Carol Gable, a native of Stewartstown in southern York County. She began in January 1944, half a year out of college, and stayed on through the sale of the paper in 1970 and its replacement by the *York Daily Record*. "The differences between then and now are vast, more like a century of change ... The contrast between the Gitt operation and the cur-

rent automation, with news treated like a packaged commodity, has to be experienced," Gable said. She credited *The Gazette and Daily* with being "my real education in what makes the world go around," noting she came from "a conservative, if sometimes eccentric, family background and from a small Methodist college which had done little to broaden my outlook."[33]

As a native, she was accepted by the townspeople but sometimes ostracized because of her choice of employment. Her description provides a vivid account of what it was like to be a reporter for the paper:

> It was strenuous, especially considering the pay (her starting salary was $20 a week) but we were very much caught up in the paper's philosophy and anxious to do a good job in the face of the strong community disapproval of "that man Gitt." Officially, most police departments did not speak to us although some of us had a few friends within. The same situation prevailed with public officials: city hall was forever imposing news bans and ingenuity was needed then.
>
> In course of time, I signed the Wallace petition and had my name published in the *Dispatch*. In McCarthy time, that branded one a dangerous radical. I remember sitting-in in a restaurant at Duke and Princess to demand that blacks be served. This was before I had heard "sit-in," and certainly before blacks were so called. I was what you might call an amateur liberal, but enthusiastic.
>
> Everything in the paper was blamed by the public as the direct instigation of Mr. Gitt.
>
> It has been gratifying to have so many of our "campaigns" come to acceptance, and I will always arrive at my personal opinions in Gazette context.[34]

As *The Gazette and Daily* became known as a progressive newspaper, especially after World War II, Gitt received many applications from journalists wanting to work there for political reasons. Several of those applicants had been trained at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, whose chairman of the news-editorial sequence, Curtis D. MacDougall, was state chairman of the Progressive Party and its candidate for the U. S. Senate in 1948.[35] The first Northwestern graduate to apply for a job on *The Gazette and Daily*, in April 1948, was Robert H. Gildart, a Medill instructor who wanted to obtain professional experience. MacDougall's letter of reference to Gitt, by then chairman of the Progressive Party in Pennsylvania, said: "Gildart has been active in our local chapter of the Progressive Citizens of America ... I gather that yours is one of the few papers in the country where such political views do not automatically operate against a person today."[36]

After Gildart had been interviewed in York and Gitt had offered him a reporter's position at $67 a week, the publisher wrote the young instructor a letter to reinforce just what he would be getting into if he decided to come to York. It underlined Gitt's knowledge that red-baiting would increase once he began hiring staff members with similar political views from outside the community. The letter, dated March 12, 1948, said in part:

> Do you know that I am the Chairman of the Progressive Party (Wallace party) in Pennsylvania? Do you realize that I am constantly accused of being a Communist, and of consorting with Communists and being used by them to further their ends? And that *The Gazette and Daily*, of course, is put in the same category?
>
> Can you take it? Can you stand up under that kind of attack and still do a good job? Are you a hundred percent convinced that it is only a smoke screen for the purpose of blinding us to the realities of the situation?
>
> I think you have a right to have this added. I am not a Communist or a Communist fronter; *The Gazette and Daily* is not pro-Communist, Communist front or any other kind of Communist. We do our own thinking, come to our own conclusions, irrespective of pressure from the Right or Left or elsewhere, and we intend to continue to do this. We do not propose to be intimidated.
>
> I am merely writing you again so that you will understand exactly what the situation is. If you feel about these things like we do — all right — fine — come, the quicker the better.[37]

The Progressives

Gildart did go to York and remained a reporter on *The Gazette and Daily* until early 1951. At that time he returned to his home state of Michigan and worked on small papers there until he began teaching journalism at his *alma mater*, Albion College. He retired in 1980. In an interview, Gildart said he did vote for Henry Wallace in 1948, but that he also resigned from the Progressive Party while living in Pennsylvania because he felt "it was being dominated by those too far left." He said the party in the East was "farther to the left" than the party he had known in Illinois.[38] Thus, Gildart pinpointed one of the major criticisms of the Progressive Party that has lasted for over three and a half decades — that it was dominated by the members of the Communist Party who were working within it and that Henry Wallace did nothing to curtail their influence.

The answer to that criticism lies in the fact that Wallace, like Gitt, was an independent thinker with a firm belief in the First Amendment, though there are letters from him to Gitt in the mid-1950s that indicate he wished he had acted differently, as some of his advisors kept telling him to do. Perhaps the answer lies in what MacDougall, the chronicler of the 1948 Progressive Party campaign in his three-volume *Gideon's Army*, has observed: "One of the firmest opinions I have regarding Henry A. Wallace is that throughout his entire public life, he never weighed carefully the political consequences of any important decision or act."[39] It is also true that the Progressives found the organizational skills of the Communists useful, since most of the post-war Progressives had never done the meticulous work of party-building before.

The imprint of J. W. Gitt's independence and beliefs was conspicuously evidenced on the pages of *The Gazette and Daily* during the years surrounding the 1948 Presidential campaign. Gitt also played a prominent personal role in the major third party, the Wallace-led Progressive Party. For two years, from March 1948 to July 1950, he was chairman of the Progressive Party of Pennsylvania, and for at least a year before that had been active in the party's forerunner, the Progressive Citizens of

America. His was one of the most influential voices to convince the former Vice President to wage a battle for the Presidency on the Progressive Party ticket.

The York publisher poured considerable amounts of time and energy into the effort — to say nothing of money,[40] his newspaper's columns and the use of his printshop for campaign literature. *The Gazette and Daily*'s endorsement of Wallace's candidacy evoked mixed reactions — admiration and chagrin — from both the area readership and the paper's own staff. As always, however, Gitt was exercising his prerogative as an independent newspaper owner, listening to the voice of his own conscience.

Following an inner voice throughout their lives was not the only common ground between Gitt and Wallace. Their mutual respect and admiration undoubtedly grew out of these commonalities, whether either realized it at the time. Each man had rural or small-town roots. Gitt was born March 28, 1884, into a well-to-do business family in the town of Hanover, York County, Pennsylvania. Wallace was born October 7, 1888, into a prosperous farming family near Orient, Adair County, Iowa. Each was descended from Scottish Protestants who had settled in northern Ireland before migrating to America. Gitt's maternal grandfather was a liberal minister in the German Reformed Church. Wallace's paternal grandfather, the first son of the immigrant Wallace and later known as "Uncle Henry," studied for the Presbyterian ministry and took his first pastorate in Davenport, Iowa. Ill health forced him to leave the ministry and eventually settle in Des Moines with his two sons — one of them Wallace's father, Henry C. There, "Uncle Henry" started a farm newspaper, which assumed the name of *Wallace's Farmer* in 1896. The paper became the most influential farm journal in the Midwest. Henry A. Wallace took over as editor in 1921 when his father became Secretary of Agriculture in Harding's cabinet, the Wallace family having been what they considered to be "progressive Republicans."

A dozen years later, at the beginning of Roosevelt's first term in 1933, the son entered Washington politics in the same post, also as a Republican. Henry A. Wallace did not change his party affiliation to Democrat until 1936. After two terms as Secretarty of Agriculture, one as Vice President, and fourteen months as Secretary of Commerce, he reentered journalism in 1946 as editor of *The New Republic*, the journal begun in 1914 during the earlier "Progressive Era." Wallace resigned as editor in July 1948, only a few days before receiving the Progressive Party's Presidential nomination. Though the two men differed in their political party upbringing, the self-made prosperity often fostered by rural and small town backgrounds undoubtedly lent itself to a certain freedom of thought that later helped to mesh their political beliefs.[41]

From his editor's office at *The New Republic* on February 27, 1947, Wallace wrote a letter strongly commending Gitt. "I have long been im-

pressed by the courage and intelligence of J. W. Gitt. He is a real asset to the progressive cause,"[42] said Wallace. The previous year, he had gone to York to address the annual Jefferson-Jackson dinner of the Men's Democratic Society of York. "Progressive sentiment is rising throughout the country," Wallace said in characteristic optimism.[43]

Present at the dinner was Pennsylvania's senior senator, Joseph F. Guffey, who had backed the re-nomination of Wallace for the Vice-Presidency at the Democratic convention in July 1944, won by Truman in the end. In a note to Gitt at the time, Guffey said: "While he was not nominated, it is my opinion that he came out of the convention a much bigger man than when he went in. I am also of the opinion that he will be the leader of liberalism during the immediate years to come."[44]

Precisely when Wallace became "the leader of liberalism" is unclear, according to MacDougall in *Gideon's Army*. He noted that in later years when he questioned Wallace about the origins of the Progressive Party, Wallace would only say that when he was forced to resign from Truman's cabinet as Secretary of Commerce on September 20, 1946, he felt "peace was the overpowering issue of the times and ... he intended to take part in the 1948 campaign."[45]

By the autumn of 1947, Wallace was on a cross-country speaking tour. The stumping seemed like a campaign tour, though he had not yet announced his independent candidacy or affiliated with the new party. Several old friends and supporters — such as Michael Straight, *New Republic* publisher, and Frank Kingdon, who had resigned from the Progressive Party to run for the U. S. Senate on the Democratic ticket in New Jersey — tried to warn him against making a third-party campaign. "You won't have a Gideon's army to support you," Kingdon told Wallace in early December 1947. Wallace did not heed his friend's warning, of course, but he did use the catch-phrase as the slogan for his Presidential campaign.[46] His speeches were laced with biblical references, so it was not unseemly that Wallace would call upon the Israelite farmer from the 12th century, B. C., who led only 300 fearless men in a revolt against his people's rulers, employing the sound of trumpets, the breaking of pitchers and the lighting of lamps. Gideon then became ruler of Israel for 40 years.[47]

Wallace certainly saw himself as the main defender and promulgator of New Deal policies that he thought would lead to world peace. Both Wallace and Gitt thought if they sounded the trumpets loudly enough, they could rout what they saw as reactionary forces possibly leading to a third world war. Both men warned against control by those who had made enormous profits during the war's industrial boom and wanted to continue doing so after the war's end. Like Gitt, Wallace was not against capitalism, *per se*, but he wanted "progressive capitalism," which he thought would allow more people to share in the wealth. Prosperity

through governmental control of big business and peace through the United Nations were his goals.[48]

The York publisher became such an ardent supporter of the former Vice President that he was sometimes criticized for allowing *The Gazette and Daily* to become "a house organ of the Progressive Party and its candidate."[49] For about four years, from 1946 until the summer of 1950 when both Gitt and Wallace resigned from the Progressive Party over the issue of the Korean War, *The Gazette and Daily* carried news stories on all the activities of the party and its candidate. The paper ran long news stories on Wallace's speeches and extensive excerpts as separate features if Gitt deemed them important enough. In the latter category, for instance, was Wallace's "Madison Square Garden Speech," delivered on September 12, 1946, for which President Truman requested his resignation as Secretary of Commerce eight days later.[50]

Titled "The Way to Peace," the speech triggered a controversy when Truman claimed he had never approved it but Wallace insisted he had. The speech originally had contained several criticisms of the Soviet Union that Wallace softened when he realized how pro-Russia was the crowd in Madison Square Garden. He struck at Truman's "get tough" policy by stating, "The tougher we get, the tougher the Russians will get." He proposed that each nation respect the other's sphere of influence — the United States in the Western Hemisphere and Russia in Eastern Europe — while working for peace through the United Nations, which would control all atomic weapons and all the world's air bases.[51] Gitt also shared Wallace's world view and refused to cease considering Russia as an ally once World War II was over.

The Cold War

The York publisher had never given his unqualified support to Franklin D. Roosevelt and his "New Deal." While many criticized the President's program as being too radical, for Gitt it often seemed too conservative. He told McKinley Olson, who had compiled a book of his editorials:

> Franklin Roosevelt stopped too short. He didn't go far enough. If I had been him, I would have at least taken over the public utilities; it would have been a cinch at the time. F. D. R. was very severely criticized later by some people for having saved the capitalistic system. He did save it, for the monopolists, but the big shots were too dumb to know it. They crucified him, called him all kinds of names.[52]

In early 1943 Gitt wrote two letters to his old friend, Washington attorney Huston Thompson, whose law firm had represented the U. S. government on many cases, expressing deep concern about the Roosevelt administration's foreign policy and what he saw as a "reign of the monopolists" at home.[53] He also worried that another old friend, Secretary of State Cordell Hull,[54] had not done enough to stop the Presi-

dent from turning over War Production to "the monopolists and vested interests."[55] Thompson defended Hull, saying he was "regarded as the soundest man in Washington and nobody questions his honesty," but that a cabal had formed to try to unseat him.[56] Gitt's reply, dated February 10, 1943, foreshadows why he would, in a few years, support for the Presidency the one national politician he thought also held business monopolies in distrust. He wrote to Thompson:

> I am convinced ... that we are losing the real fight and that we are losing it because we are becoming blind to the real issues involved. If this is only a war to "lick" Hitler and Mussolini and Tojo and their cliques then we might as well resign ourselves to the certainty of another war within another comparatively few years. Our thinking as a nation is far more beclouded and confused than it was when Wilson was our leader. The reactionary elements are far nearer control now than they were at the same period in the last war. In defeating fascists we are acquiring fascism. The whole trouble is that we liberals have lost sight of the ultimate ends. We have been too well satisfied with present results which in themselves are useless or nearly so from the long term standpoint. We are further from a League of Nations or any type of collective security than in 1918. What the big business shots want, of course, is world monopoly and unless there is decided change for the better we are more than likely to come out of this war with that kind of fascism in control.[57]

Gitt's ideas about the control of U. S. foreign policy by international business interests also were held by the ousted member of the Truman Administration, who by 1947 was calling for the election of progressive candidates in the next year's race. In a speech to the convention of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America in Boston on September 22, 1947, Wallace expressed his warning that United States foreign policy was based on "support of reaction, heavy armaments and plans for universal military training, and interference with the internal affairs of almost every nation in the world."[58] By then, the era of the Cold War was well under way.

"The date of the opening of the Cold War is most commonly set in 1946, early in the post-World-War-II Truman Administration, when the wartime alliance between the United States and the Soviet Union was being dismantled," wrote Aronson in *The Press and the Cold War*.[59] But there were those both in and outside government circles who thought that Russia and the United States should continue as allies. Many of them were members of the two popular-front groups, the National Citizens Political Action Committee (NC-PAC), which helped raise funds for the 1944 campaign to re-elect Roosevelt, and the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions (ICCASP).[60] At a joint convention in December 1946, the two groups merged to form the Progressive Citizens of America (PCA). Wallace appeared as a featured speaker at the new organization's first meeting. Already he was being talked about as a possible third-party Presidential candidate in the 1948 election.[61]

In January 1947, Gitt was informed that he had been elected by the

joint convention as a member of the PCA's national board of directors.[62] In the previous year, Gitt had contributed at least $100 to the NC-PAC,[63] but more importantly the PCA officers certainly knew of his long-time support for Henry Wallace. The former Vice-President did not immediately join the PCA, but instead wrote in a letter to Gitt dated January 21, 1947, that he felt the PCA should merge with the Americans for Democratic Action (ADA), formed in early January 1947. "My cure for these two organizations is to add them together and divide by two in order to secure a name," Wallace wrote. "Both of them have the word 'American'; one has the word 'Democratic'; and the other word 'Progressive.' In other words, why not call a united organization 'Progressive Democrats of America,' or PDA?"[64]

Apparently it was too early for Wallace to realize the basic difference between the two groups, which would become one of the major reasons why the PCA went out of existence but the ADA did not as the Cold War hysteria heightened. The PCA felt it could use Communist Party members to its advantage in organizing drives. The ADA, however, in its first policy statement said: "We reject any association with Communists or sympathizers with Communism in the United States as completely as we reject any association with Fascists or their sympathizers. Both are hostile to the principles of freedom and democracy on which this Republic has grown great."[65]

Replying to Wallace, Gitt agreed that the two groups "should be added together and should be a united front in a militant fight for progressivism."[66] In an apparent attempt to persuade Wallace that he should become a part of the PCA, Gitt enclosed a copy of his January 22, 1947, editorial, "What Progressives Can Do." In his letter he also commented on the liberals who had fallen prey to red-baiting and indicated that he would be cautious about joining forces with them:

> I am still of the opinion that very many of the liberals have succumbed to the anti-Russian poison put out by reactionaries and disgruntled leftists and that they are making jackanapes of themselves and using up far too much of their effort in hunting down communists and fellow travelers and near-communists and all sort of individuals who are not ready to join their "holy crusade."
>
> Certainly I would not do anything knowingly that might prevent a union of the progressive forces, but on the other hand, I am not going to sit back and keep entirely quiet about a lot of people who ought to know better being made tools of by fascists and neo-fascists.[67]

In the editorial Gitt called for "a foreign policy which will encourage peace and good will and not act as a partner of reaction in protecting itself against a better distribution of wealth and income abroad." He also called for government-supported education, medical care, old age pensions, and benefits for the physically handicapped. The actions he outlined for progressives to do included: "fight for a more equitable distribution of the

products of the soil and factory; ... protect labor in its right to bargain ...; put into practice the American ideal of the equality of man; destroy monopoly ...; secure full employment and make it a national policy ..."[68]

Undoubtedly, Gitt had long thought of himself as a progressive capitalist, and in some respects could be called a "radical capitalist" although that term does not appear to exist in political phraseology.[69] Although the term was used derogatorily against him by some in the community, Gitt did consider himself a "radical" as he explained in an editorial for April 15, 1947:

> Our way of life today must be radical democracy if it is to hold fast to the ideals of our forefathers. Radical in the sense that we do believe and practice the equality of mankind....Radical in the sense that all just government derives its powers from the consent of the governed. Radical in the sense that human rights are superior, greatly superior to property rights.
>
> Why this scampering for cover by so many professed liberals when some reactionary calls them radical or worse?[70]

Red-Baiting

Serious red-baiting of Gitt and his newspaper grew as he became more and more involved with the Progressive Party. "Jess" Gitt was respected on the golf course and in the board rooms as a skilled golfer and successful businessman. As the publisher of *The Gazette and Daily*, however, he was often slandered by those who could not understand that to give Communists (or communists) their right to exist and freely express their ideas did not mean that one had to hold the same beliefs. The red-baiting continued throughout the Cold War era, and on through the 1960s, as the paper unfailingly took its stand against the war in Vietnam and for the rights of black Americans. Not only were Gitt and his newspaper red-baited, but also those members of the staff who were known, or suspected, to hold beliefs similar to the newspaper's editorial policies.[71]

"Josiah Gitt was among the few Americans of some stature who stood up with Wallace in defiance of red-baiting," said Cedric Belfrage in the book he co-authored with Aronson about the *National Guardian*, a progressive newsweekly the two journalists founded in the fall of 1948. (A preview issue, called the *National Gazette*, was run off the presses of *The Gazette and Daily* on August 1, 1948, soon after the Progressive Party convention in Philadelphia.) "In each geographical and occupational area there was one or a handful of these — ranging politically from loyal Rooseveltian to socialist — though all wouldn't stay the course."[72]

If the American liberal-left had ever hoped to build a united front during the immediate post-war years, that dream was set adrift in the aftermath of reactions to President Truman's urgent address to Congress on March 12, 1947. He set forth a proposal of long-range economic and military aid to Greece and Turkey, after describing a growing Soviet

threat to those two countries that Britain had said it could no longer afford to aid. The "Truman Doctrine" especially upset those who saw the necessity of cooperating with the Soviet Union in order to maintain world peace. American Communists viewed the President's plan as imperialism. The PCA saw the proposal as heading the United States toward war, but it hoped a popular front would grow as more people criticized the administration's foreign policy. Some liberals on the left saw cooperation with Russia as naive but feared worldwide military involvement as an accepted policy of the U. S. government. The ADA at first was silent, but the majority who supported the doctrine finally won an ADA endorsement on March 30, thus aligning the organization with Truman's foreign policy.[73]

Liberals and left-liberals within Congress expressed some opposition, most notably Democratic Senators Claude A. Pepper of Florida and Glen Taylor of Idaho, both strong Wallace supporters. (Taylor would become Wallace's running-mate in the 1948 campaign.) Even some conservatives saw it as the beginning of long-range American military support that could only grow, not lessen.[74] All in all, however, as noted by historian Mary Sperling McAuliffe in *Crisis on the Left*, "Anti-Communist liberalism was emerging quickly and already was strongly challenging the popular front for leadership of the post-war American left."[75]

On the day after Truman's speech before Congress, Wallace addressed the nation on NBC Radio and dubbed his former boss's speech as "a turning point in American history." He explained, "It is not a Greek crisis that we face, it is an American crisis. It is a crisis in the American spirit."[76] He condemned the Doctrine's support of a reactionary regime, expansion of United States military aid, and its by-passing of the United Nations. "We must give the common man all over the world something better than communism," Wallace said. "I believe we have something better than communism here in America. But President Truman has not spoken for the American ideal."[77]

Many Americans agreed with him, and Wallace's office was flooded with letters. Some of the writers complained that their local press did not give his speech adequate coverage, but one newspaper that gave the speech full front-page coverage was *The Gazette and Daily*. And, as Richard Walton recorded, its publisher was one of those who wrote Wallace congratulating him for "speaking out against Truman's tragic error in United States foreign policy."[78] The letter provided Gitt a platform for sharing his views with the man he soon would be urging to campaign as Truman's replacement:

> While one had every reason to anticipate what the President did, nevertheless it came as a great shock to me. I just cannot believe that we can be led into offering up our human resources as well as our material ones in erecting a Chinese wall around

communism. And that of course is what Truman was proposing.

It seems to me that the whole future of humanity is hanging in the balance and that a resort to force by reaction to beat off communism will sooner or later put an end to civilization as we know it.

Lining up with reaction can come to no good. Personally I am so firmly convinced that reaction is attempting to commit suicide and carry us with it, that it seems imperative to me that all of us who do know better must speak out fearlessly and regardless of possible present political results. Somehow or other we have got to head off this ignorant and dangerous international policy.

And may I say that like you I am certainly not a communist or fellow traveler or anything of the kind.[79]

Throughout the ensuing years Gitt, in his correspondence, frequently expressed denial of being a communist or fellow traveler. Although he had the courage of an independent thinker, he seemed to feel the necessity of denying those charges used to red-bait him even when writing to those who would not think of doing so.

The Wallace Presidency

The year 1947 was a party-building one for Progressives, who could be counted all over the country throughout the wide range of left-liberal political thought. Specifically, they were voters who saw Truman's foreign policies leading to a tightening of tensions on the world scene that could lead to another war — assuredly a long, drawn-out "cold" one if not a "hot" one like the devastating world war just over. They were looking for a candidate they felt would work toward maintaining peace on the world scene, rather than escalating a "get tough" stance with Russia. Henry Wallace was becoming more and more the favored candidate, especially after his speaking tour of European nations in April 1947, in which he openly opposed the Truman Doctrine. Upon his return to the United States, Wallace reported that the Europeans viewed it "with fear because they regard it as a step leading toward war."[80]

Certainly J. W. Gitt was stumping for Wallace, both through his newspaper and through contacts with highly-placed friends he knew to be Wallace supporters. In mid-May 1947, Gitt wrote Pennsylvania Senator Guffey: "It is good to know that you feel the way you do about Wallace and I certainly hope that somehow or other we may be able to bring about his nomination and thus guarantee a Democratic victory in 1948."[81] Sometime between then and the summer of 1947, Gitt was named honorary chairman of the York branch, PCA. The Eastern Pennsylvania chapter's executive director, Murray Ostrander, began sending to *The Gazette and Daily*'s office envelopes addressed with the chapter's mailing list of Philadelphia names. Thus, Gitt was allowing his newspaper's facilities to be used for Progressive Party purposes, a function for which he was heavily criticized by members of his own staff who did not support Wallace.[82]

The York publisher's primary influence on the former Vice President's decision to run for the Presidency, according to MacDougall, was in December 1947, at the second of two meetings with supporters. At the first meeting on December 2, 1947, at a small gathering in the studio of New York sculptor Jo Davidson, Wallace "definitely made up his mind to run for the Presidency on a third-party ticket." Gitt was not present at that gathering,[83] but he was on December 17 as part of a subcommittee of the PCA's executive committee who called on Wallace in his New York hotel headquarters. They informed him about the executive committee's formal vote on December 15 to request him to be their candidate. Others present were: C. B. Baldwin, Lillian Hellman, John Abt, Harold Young, Mrs. Elinor Gimbel, Michael Nisselson and James Imbrie. The group urged Wallace to announce his candidacy before the year was over and to do so from Chicago rather than from New York — that is, from the heartland. MacDougall described Gitt's closeness to the new candidate:

> When Wallace raised the question of the possible vote he would receive, Gitt replied, "It makes no difference how many votes you get. You are in honor bound to run." In the opinion of many who were "close to the top" at the time — and I know of none who dissents from this view — the insistent urging of Josiah Gitt was a strong factor in causing Wallace to decide to run. It was Gitt whom Wallace asked to walk back to the *New Republic* office with him, at the conclusion of the meeting, for further conversation on the important decision he had made.[84]

Wallace finally announced his candidacy in a nation-wide broadcast from Chicago on December 29, 1947. In an editorial for the *New Republic*, later re-printed in pamphlet form and titled "Why I Choose to Run," he tried to answer those who feared an involvement in the campaign from the far left: "Many of my friends who have supported my decision argued in advance that it was dangerous, because the Communists wanted it. But I have never believed in turning from a principled position because it happened to win the support of others with whom you have important disagreements."[85] The candidate would lose a lot of potential liberal support over the Communist issue. For instance, the ADA's national leadership issued a statement that a third party "would mean a retreat from American responsibility abroad, directly serving the worldwide interests of the Communist party."[86]

Out of about 1,800 daily newspapers then in existence, only "two and a quarter published Wallace's viewpoints fully and without distortion," according to Belfrage. The two were the New York *Star*, even though it finally endorsed Truman, and *The Gazette and Daily*; the one-quarter was Ted Thackrey in the New York *Post*, whose wife, Dorothy Schiff, "allowed him to write positively about Wallace in an otherwise hostile setting."[87] Except for the *Star*, all other major New York daily newspapers were pro-Dewey. The Communist *Daily Worker* in New York and the independent *Gazette and Daily* in York, Pa., became the on-

ly two newspapers in the country to completely support Wallace throughout his entire campaign. Obviously, that was another factor which contributed to the red-baiting of Gitt. The liberal New York *PM* took an editorial stand on December 18, 1947, totally opposed to a Wallace candidacy which "very much distressed" Gitt. He wrote the editor: "I cannot bring myself to do other than everything I can to give the people of the United States the opportunity to vote for what I believe in and what I thought you did, and that whether or not it is expedient and whatever names I may be called."[88]

Wallace spoke for the second time in York on March 7, 1948, at the Pennsylvania People's Convention. Out of it was formed "an historic independent party for Pennsylvania," according to *Common Sense*, a four-page tabloid published by the Progressive Party of Pennsylvania, headquartered in Harrisburg, and printed by *The Gazette and Daily*. The nameplate of *Common Sense* listed J. W. Gitt as the party's chairman and a news story said he had been named chairman "by acclamation" from the more than 2,500 delegates from around the state. He already had been the head of the temporary Pennsylvania Progressives for Wallace committee.[89]

In talking about Gitt's influence on his decision to run, Wallace said many who asked him to run as an independent candidate said "it was up to me whether or not we would have a new party." But the man from York put it to Wallace differently. He said, according to Wallace: "Look here, I'd like you to run. I think it would help, *but*, whether *you* run or not, there's going to be a new party. The times and conditions demand it." Wallace obviously respected that tactic because he said:

> With Jess Gitt this was no question of personalities. He knew the facts. They added up to the need for a new political alignment, whether Henry Wallace said "yes" or Henry Wallace said "no."
>
> I like Jess Gitt. And I think that Jess and you and I are getting that new alignment.[90]

Thus, Jess Gitt got his third party, 17 years after he first began trying to put one together. Whether it was all he had hoped it would be is doubtful — realities rarely are the stuff dreams are made of. But in a letter he wrote on June 1, 1948, to a Washington friend present at those pre-Roosevelt discussions of a third party, Gitt commented: "... I cannot understand how you could be doing the nasty things you are against the present third party, which is certainly the spiritual offering of that 1931 meeting. I just can't understand what has happened to my old liberal friend."[91]

As the year 1948 progressed toward the summer's national political conventions, Gitt received more and more letters from readers of *The Gazette and Daily* asking why they should vote for Henry Wallace. In one reply, he insisted that Wallace's election was "not beyond the realm of

possibility." Whether Gitt actually believed Wallace had any chance of winning is arguable, but he at least hoped for "a large vote" for his candidate because, as he told the same reader, "even if he does not win, it will scare the older parties very badly and have a very good and wholesome restraining effect upon their undemocratic actions."[92]

The new party convened in Philadelphia on Friday, July 23, 1948. As state chairman, Gitt officially welcomed the 3,240 delegates and alternates, plus over 8,000 visitors.[93] The biggest applause during his five-minute speech came when he said: "We are not going to be diverted from our historically necessary task by fear or timidity because of hysteria whipped up by reaction, or smoke screens or loud whispers created or circulated by unscrupulous influences which would have one believe that love of peace and liberty and following the dictates of one's conscience is not in the American tradition."[94]

The York publisher made only a few public speeches during the entire Progressive campaign. When asked to speak he usually replied that he believed he could "do more good through the paper than by attempting to do something that I am less well fitted to do."[95] Gitt often used "the paper" as an excuse to avoid making speeches and otherwise appearing in public. Those who knew him well, however, said the more probable reason was his basic shyness. Letters to influential people and editorials in his newspaper were the "voice" Gitt used most comfortably to express his views, attempting thereby to create social and political change.

Gitt was one of those who sat on the platform committee at the Progressives' Philadelphia convention, listening to loud debate over the unsuccessful "Vermont amendment" which, if passed, would have helped stop those rumors of control by Communists or fellow travelers. It read: "Although we are critical of the present foreign policy of the United States, it is not our intention to give blanket endorsement to the foreign policy of any nation."[96] He later told MacDougall he hoped it would pass but did nothing about it, adding "I guess I lost my nerve." Wallace himself told the author of *Gideon's Army*, "I thought nothing of it at the time. It became important later in the newspapers."[97]

Throughout the campaign, the major controversial issue remained the amount of Communist support within the Wallace-for-President movement. Wallace never went further publicly in repudiating that support than in his statement at Center Sandwich, New Hampshire, on June 28, 1948:

> I'm never going to say anything in the nature of red-baiting. But I must say this: if the Communists would run a ticket of their own this year, we might lose 100,000 votes but we would gain 3 million. I know if the Communists really wanted to help us, they would run their own ticket this year and let us get those extra votes.[98]

"You seem to have handled the matter about as I thought it should be

handled," Gitt wrote to Wallace.[99] Both men believed strongly that it would be contrary to their democratic principles to oust any known Communist working within the Wallace campaign, but obviously they wished the organizing energy of the Communists could be diverted to their own candidate.

Not all members of the Communist Party, U.S.A., were behind the party's official stance of supporting Wallace in 1948. "Many who opposed this action either left the Party or were expelled," pointed out Vivian Gornick in *The Romance of American Communism*. "The decision to support Wallace was — like so many other decisions in the history of the American CP — a traumatizing one. Thousands of Communists felt it was an act of accommodation to American capitalism that constituted nothing less than a betrayal of the revolution. A terrible rift was created within the Party."[100]

Even if Wallace seemed generally unperturbed about Communist influence within the Progressive Party, at least at the time, there were those who did worry about it. In late summer or early autumn, 1948, Gitt and Louis Adamic, the Yugoslav-American writer and publisher during the 1940s of the political newsletter *Trends & Tides*, went to see Wallace at his Farvue Farm in South Salem, N.Y. Several years later, at the beginning of 1956, Wallace wrote Gitt asking him to record his recollections of that visit. He especially wanted to know "just what Adamic felt were the real sentiments of the Communists vis-a-vis the Progressive Party and me personally in the 1948 campaign." He had begun the request with high praise for the York publisher: "A man like you is so rare in times like these that the only strain on my conscience is that I did not speak strongly enough about your contributions to genuine, old-fashioned Americanism."[101]

Gitt wrote his recollections of that meeting in a letter dated January 24, 1956, but did not mail it until July 6, 1956, saying he had put off sending it to Wallace "at least a dozen times" but "always wound up coming to the conclusion that it is a long story that is practically impossible to reduce to writing." He noted he would rather talk to the former candidate in person about the visit, adding "Louis felt that the Communists were cutting your throat politically. He was very much upset about it, as was I." He did enclose his longer letter of January 24, but said, "I am not sure, however, that it covers all the ground."[102]

What ground Gitt's letter does cover is basic to understanding the Communist controversy within the Wallace movement. Adamic was an ardent supporter of Wallace, and Gitt once credited him as being "about as close to my thinking as anybody I know."[103] After a trip to his native Yugoslavia in 1949, Adamic wrote several articles praising President Tito. By the next year, he had become a major target of the McCarthy witch hunts, harassed continually by the FBI at his home in New Jersey

and wherever he went. In September, 1951, he apparently succumbed to the pressures and committed suicide.[104] Part of Gitt's letter about his and Adamic's visit with Wallace sheds light on what most worried them about possible Communist control of the Progressive Party:

> As nearly as I can remember, Louis was much distressed about the manner in which your campaign was being run. He had the feeling that there had been a tremendous sentiment in your favor earlier in the campaign, which was not being properly developed, because the Communists' real aim was to use you for their purposes which did not include any particular desire to have you successful.
>
> Louis thought they were far more anxious to control the party after the election than to see you get a big vote. He was constantly "needling" me to induce you to make a change in the management of the Progressive Party for that reason.
>
> His theory was that Russia was willing to have Dewey win on the theory that it would be easier to deal with the big business crowd backing Dewey, as well as sure to bring on a depression which they thought was inevitable if reaction came into control in the United States.
>
> What he sensed was that the Communists were not really for you, were sabotaging the movement on lower levels at least, and were not cooperating with the people like him and me who were all for Wallace irrespective of all other political considerations.
>
> He felt that we had a chance to build a real liberal party if the Communists could be gotten rid of. He knew I was having my troubles with those who were constantly trying to undermine me. I personally could never find out just who they were but Louis thought he knew.
>
> Louis felt that what the Communists really wanted was to use the Progressive party as a front and also as a means to build up the Communist party by using the rolls to solicit party membership.
>
> I am not so sure history will not prove Louis to have been right, and that we would have been better off had we listened more sympathetically to him. ...[105]

Wallace promptly answered Gitt. A note dated July 10, 1956, discloses the deep personal bitterness he had come to feel about an issue which many felt he had refused to deal with adequately during the campaign. He wrote:

> Your recollections agree with mine and also with the events which took place after the prediction. (sic) What a shambles the Communists made out of a movement which would have been a strong and helpful influence in American life!
>
> I would love to see you. ...
>
> All the best to you and your "real honest-to-goodness newspaper."[106]

The Progressive Party was trounced at the polls in 1948. Wallace received only 2.38 percent of the national vote, or a total of a little over one million votes (1,157,063) — compared to Truman's 49.51 percent (or 24,104,030 votes) and Dewey's 45.13 percent (or 21,971,004 votes).[107] Gitt and Wallace came to blame the Communists for that stinging defeat.

Both New York State and Pennsylvania went for Dewey with close margins, though New York gave Wallace his highest percentage of the popular vote, 8.25 percent. Pennsylvania gave him only 1.48 percent of the popular vote.[108] In the city of York, Pennsylvania, Wallace polled 846 of the votes cast. Truman won with a little more than a 3,000-vote margin (Truman, 13,008; Dewey, 9,863).[109]

To completely blame the Communists for Wallace's defeat nationally is the easy way out. Many Progressives, in the end, voted for Truman rather than Wallace while still remaining members of the Progressive Party. The estimated number was set at seven to 10 million by Rexford Guy Tugwell, an original New Dealer who also was active on the Wallace-for-President committee.[110] *The Gazette and Daily*'s own staff was a case in point. The reporter who represented the newspaper at the 1948 Progressive Party convention, David Lachenbruch, recalled: "Most *Gazette and Daily* staffers, at least among the outsiders, were for Wallace, but many of them got cold feet and voted for Truman because they were afraid of Dewey. The election taught me that it doesn't work to vote for the lesser of two evils."[111]

After the 1948 election, Gitt was besieged with letters asking what went wrong. One succinct reply went to a young Israeli, Sabi Tabachnik, who had worked briefly on *The Gazette and Daily* before returning to his homeland. "What I make out of the last election is that Wallace raised a lot of issues that enabled Truman to win," Gitt said. "People were not ready to vote as liberal as Wallace was, but went for Truman in spite of his bad handling of foreign policy, which, it seems to me, the people did not understand. Wallace's bad showing was due to red baiting, mishandling of news on the part of most of the press, and lack of knowledge of just what our foreign policy was."[112]

The year 1949 was one of trying to re-assemble the pieces of a shattered new party. Many persons of left-of-center political persuasion, not just known Communists, had suffered job losses and intimidation throughout 1948. MacDougall noted in his conclusion to *Gideon's Army*: "The longer a person stuck to his Progressivism, the more likelihood there was that the price he would ultimately pay would be greater." He pointed out that the Dixiecrats of 1948 (whose candidate, Senator James Strom Thurmond, polled 2.40 percent of the popular vote) were "welcomed back into the Democratic fold with everything forgiven; no such generous attitude prevailed toward the Progressives."[113]

Gitt continued to run news stories and excerpts of Wallace's speeches in his newspaper, especially those addresses made by the Progressive candidate at peace rallies throughout the country in the spring of 1949. James Higgins, soon to become *The Gazette and Daily*'s assistant editor, was along on the Wallace tour as a reporter. From Los Angeles, he wired: "The meetings of what I consider to be the great people of America are moving beyond belief. ... The hope of the world is in the cheers that respond to him."[114]

The Korean War

After his nation-wide speaking tour, Wallace retired to his Farvue

Farm. When Robert Wagner stepped down from the U.S. Senate on June 27, 1949, some undaunted Wallace supporters attempted to convince him he should make a bid for that seat. But he refused to enter the New York Senatorial race between Herbert Lehman and John Foster Dulles. According to Norman D. Markowitz, "Wallace felt increasingly isolated in the third party and remained in only out of a sense of loyalty to the surviving non-Communist Progressives."[115] At the Progressive Party's convention in February, 1950, Wallace called upon Communists within the party to serve American interests first, and stressed the need for the delegates, only half the number as in 1948, to spread the word that the party membership was largely non-Communist.[116] In half a year's time, Wallace saw what was for him probably the most respectable way out of the party — as did Gitt.

The issue was the Korean War, which split American liberals and leftists even further apart. Fighting broke out in Korea between the North and South on June 25, 1950. Two days later, the United Nations Security Council labeled North Korea as the aggressor and called for meeting the "attack" with armed resistance.

The Progressive Party's executive committee called an emergency session for July 6, 1950, at which Wallace became even more estranged from the other party leaders. He objected to the committee's resolution criticizing the UN Security Council's call for armed resistance and opposing any UN action until the Russian delegation returned to the Security Council. The Russians had been boycotting the Council to protest UN refusal to seat the People's Republic of China. After much negotiating, Wallace and the executive committee remained stalemated, with Wallace telling them he would issue his own statement later, which he did on July 15.[117]

In the nine days between that meeting and Wallace's public statement, he and Gitt exchanged letters on the issue. Gitt had made up his mind to resign from the Progressive Party, probably because he knew the stalemate could not be resolved. On July 9, he had a long talk at his Hanover home with Zalmon H. Garfield of Philadelphia, state director of the Party, to explain why he felt compelled to resign as state chairman. "May I say that I have never done anything that I can remember that was more difficult than this,"[118] Gitt wrote a couple of days later to a woman in Philadelphia in reply to her note saying, "I'd be much happier if we'd stick together."[119] Gitt further explained:

> Of course I have always had very definite opinions of my own. I have never found it possible to associate myself with others and let them do my thinking for me. I have just got to be myself, however painful it may be at times, and however much I might be misunderstood by others.
>
> I hope you understand that I am still as much of a liberal as I ever was. I am not the kind of liberal who can set aside his principles when it becomes apparent to him that someone else is attempting to use him.[120]

Gitt's letter of resignation could not be found in his personal correspondence or in the Henry Wallace/Progressive Party papers at the University of Iowa.[121] But it is inferable from a letter from Wallace to Gitt dated July 11, 1950, which also sheds light on the former candidate's position:

> I have your letter telling about your resignations. I know exactly how you feel. So far I have been busy putting all my pressure on the boys here not to issue any statement on the Korean matter until they had the facts and then not to include in their statement anything blaming the US government or the UN. I told them I would put out a statement of my own if they did. I said it was perfectly alright to call the Syngman Rhee government everything which it is. I said it was perfectly alright to call attention to the rightness of our stand in the past but that when our boys are dying in Korea as a result of a well planned attack I could not be party to any statement which blames the US government or the UN.
>
> I have made it clear that I agree with Trygve Lie and Nehru that the New China should be seated. Finally the boys agreed on a statement which I think you could approve. Probably under cover of this statement the extremists will go ahead and do things which I cannot approve at all. I shall then have to issue a statement of my own.
>
> The boys want me to urge you to withdraw your resignation. Jim Imbrie especially wants you back in the fold. Jim doesn't realize how temporary the present truce is between the PP leaders and myself. They are sincere and I am sincere but we just don't believe the same things now that our country has blundered into war. I am for my country and the UN.[122]

Four days later, on July 15, along with the Progressive Party's official resolution condemning the UN action, Wallace issued his own statement, reprinted in full in *The Gazette and Daily*. The closing portion of the statement reiterated his support for the United Nations:

> ...With world affairs having reached their present pass, I believe the only safety for the U.S. and the U.N. is to continue their efforts to push the North Koreans north of the 38th parallel.
>
> I say this fully realizing how many times even the conservative press of the U.S. has called attention to the dictatorial and corrupt methods used by Syngman Rhee's South Korean government. But the U.S. has been forced by unwise actions on the part of both Russia and the U.S. to take a stand. The U.N. also, because Korea is peculiarly a creation of the U.N., has been forced to take a stand. Again I say that under such conditions I stand by my country and the U.N.[123]

Wallace officially resigned from the Progressive Party on August 8, 1950, after it had become clear to him that the executive committee would stand behind its resolution.[124] Many of the remaining non-Communist members within the national leadership also resigned around that time.[125] In mid-August Gitt replied to a doctor in New Hampshire who had written him about leaving the Party: "My resignation went in about a week or two before Wallace's. Frankly, with a pretty certain knowledge of what Wallace was likely to do. ... I do hope that something will arise to take the place of the Progressive Party and that we will be found working together again."[125] Thus, chances are Wallace himself had resigned from the party closer to the July 15 date of his statement on

Korea, rather than on the August 8 date officially recorded.

At the core of both Wallace and Gitt's resignations was fear of Communist domination of the Party. It was a factor Gitt did not like to acknowledge publicly, but he did so in reply to a Progressive Party ward organizer in Philadelphia who pointedly asked him if he had resigned as state chairman for that reason:[127]

> ...I am still very much upset that I found it necessary to sever myself from the party which I did only after I had mulled the matter over in my mind for many months and had come to the conclusion that there was no longer any outside chance that it could be kept free of communist domination. ... Mr. Wallace understands my position.
>
> You are the only other person to whom I have put the matter so plainly and I am doing it in your case because you have been so frank with me. Under the circumstances as I saw them the only thing I could conscientiously do was to resign, much as I regretted the necessity.[128]

A reporter for *The Gazette and Daily* that summer, John T. Hough, wrote: "JW hated to be called a Communist dupe, because it suggested that he was stupid. But he refused to panic and stubbornly refused to disavow Communist sympathy at a time when this took courage. ... He finally jumped the Communist line when the Korean War broke out, writing an editorial which his staff greeted with relief and delight."[129]

Gitt wrote several editorials about the "Korean crisis," the title of the first one published on June 28 1950. Faith in the United Nations as a peace-keeping organization and anguish that Russia had done something to upset world peace were the themes of Gitt's editorials that summer. "We sincerely hope that the United States, whatever any nation may do, will firmly stand back of the United Nations and insist that the dispute be adjusted through United Nations offices," he wrote in the first one.[130] Two days later, an editorial specifically placing the blame on the Russians appeared, which said: "Only naive or gullible individuals will believe for an instant that North Korea would be acting without the consent of Russia. It goes without saying that North Korea would not be in South Korea without the approval of the Russians. ..."[131]

Although Gitt's belief in the United Nations as a keeper of world peace was total, and though he believed the aggressor to be Russia-North Korea, he was wise enough to know that the government of South Korea was hardly blameless. In an editorial published July 5, 1950, Gitt said, in his sometimes prophetic voice:

> We may as well face the facts, unpleasant as they may be. The South Korean government on behalf of which American troops are in combat is no more a government of the people, by the people and for the people than was the China government of Chiang Kai-shek. ...
>
> The spirit of change is sweeping the Eastern world. The colonial peoples are determined once and for all to get rid of their oppressors and to create a new kind of life for themselves. Up to now, the United State government has offered them nothing new, nothing at all resembling government by, for and of the people. The situation in

> Korea indicates the consequences of our failure to encourage real democracy in the Far East, while it also shows that there is still time, even if only a very little, to start doing so.[132]

Gitt's disassociation from the Progressive Party took a lot out of him emotionally. In 1950 he was 66 years old and could have retired, but he took too much pride in his newspaper for that. From 1950 on, his personal correspondence drastically decreased and he shared the editorial writing with Higgins, though Gitt maintained control of editorial policy. With *The Gazette and Daily* presenting his public voice, Gitt retired less from political life than did the man he had backed so completely for the Presidency. Wallace spent more and more time on his farm near the southern Connecticut border with New York State, continuing his famous experiments with corn hybridization. He ventured outside those confines only infrequently to make statements in front of boards and commissions in the years before his death on November 18, 1965. His staunchest supporter in the American press would out-live him by eight years, spending much of his time in a book-lined study with memories from those headily optimistic years. One of those mementoes was a photograph of a smiling Henry Agard Wallace and Josiah William Gitt, confidently linking arms at the convention held to form a third party whose goal was to bring peace to the world.

Final Years

During the two decades from 1950 on, Gitt continued supporting progressive causes through his newspaper, both in editorials and news coverage. *The Gazette and Daily* was one of the first newspapers in the country to warn against the dangers of nuclear power plants. York is sandwiched between the plants at Peach Bottom and Three Mile Island.[133] It is ironic that the accident at TMI occurred on March 28, 1979, the 95th anniversary of Gitt's birth. Just five days after that accident, a special exhibit opened at Hanover Public Library to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Albert Einstein. The exhibit consisted of editorials by Gitt, cartoons by Walt Partymiller, and a series of letters between Gitt and Einstein about setting up a York committee to work with the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists in order to educate the public about nuclear energy.[134] The Emergency Committee was calling for "effective international control of atomic energy." As chairman Einstein wrote Gitt, "We all appreciate the steady attention this work receives in the columns of your newspaper."[135]

The Gazette and Daily also was one of the first newspapers to warn about the hazards of cigarette smoking, long before the U.S. Surgeon General issued an official warning. The paper also printed the decisions of

the Federal Trade Commission, which sometimes cost it advertising. The Atlantic and Pacific supermarket chain was one company to withdraw advertising as a result of publishing an unfavorable ruling against them. That practice probably more than any other landed *The Gazette and Daily* on George Seldes' list of "great small-town newspapers." Seldes had begun printing the FTC rulings in his newsletter, *in fact*, in the 1940s.

As pro-labor and anti-big business as Gitt was in his editorial policy, he proved to be a hard-headed businessman (or "stubborn Dutchman" as he liked to describe himself) in his negotiations with the paper's unit of the American Newspaper Guild. Gene Gilmore, a reporter and wire editor on the paper from 1949 to 1957 and chairman of *The Gazette and Daily*'s unit, recounted one particularly tough negotiating session that Gitt obviously enjoyed. Asked if he could guarantee a minimum Christmas bonus, Gitt "grinned and said, 'Oh, $30.' ... The bonus turned out to be $220, equal to about $500 today, and we were all giddy." Gilmore added, "The Gitts' claim that they made no money apparently was true." One year, he said, they allowed a Guildsman from Philadelphia to see the accounting books and he disclosed that the paper was making about $7,000 a year profit, which had been the average for the previous several years.[136] Though Gitt was tough in negotiating a Guild contract, he retired his employees at full salary for life, something unheard of even at larger and more profitable papers.

Gilmore left *The Gazette and Daily* to teach journalism at Syracuse University and later at the University of Illinois, Urbana. Though he criticized Gitt's tough stance in Guild negotiations, he praised the freedom he was allowed in carrying out his job on the paper:

> It is easy to recall the eccentricities of J.W. and be critical. There were exasperations all right, but I know in that period I would have been miserable any other place. I edited the wire news for seven years and I never felt I had to compromise in any way. The night that AP filed a long, long Senate report on McCarthy, Lou Stone jumped the paper four pages so we could get it all in. Except for *The New York Times* I'll bet no paper in the country ran it all. I have worked summers on a lot of papers since and generally have enjoyed the work – but I'm sure on most of them one summer is enough. I realize, however, that I'm more tolerant of compromise than I was 25 years ago.[137]

It was a labor dispute that, on the surface at least, put an end to "that marvelous voice," as *The Gazette and Daily* was described by Robert Klein, now a senior editor at *Money* magazine, who went to York to work on the paper after sending it dispatches from the second perjury trial of Alger Hiss. In York, he had the distinction of being one of the few out-of-towners assigned to the county beat, reporting on the "vital trivia that kept the *Gazette*'s loyal following in the county." In an interview he explained what the experience meant to him. "I wouldn't have missed working on the *Gazette* for anything," Klein said. "But the boat rocking I have

done since in bigger and unsympathetic ponds has, I'd like to believe, served the reading public and the journalism fraternity better than if I had stayed years on end in York, where that marvelous voice eventually weakened and faded away."[138]

The Gazette and Daily had been losing money steadily throughout the 1960s. Some said it was due to the paper's rather strident anti-Vietnam and pro-civil rights stand, which decreased advertising revenue; others said it simply was due to poor business management. When the typographers' union went on strike in early fall of 1970, most members of the editorial staff honored their picket line. The editorial staff never struck the paper, though the Guild unit often threatened to during negotiations. It was during that time that Gitt sold his paper, but not before he had asked all employees to take a 10 percent salary cut, which was refused. He told them in an emergency meeting, "The York Gazette Company is dead broke."[139]

How bad the financial situation really was, and how much of his own money Gitt had been using to finance the paper, was revealed in an exchange with Seldes in the summer of 1973, just a few months before Gitt's own death. The York publisher rather bitterly wrote his old friend: "... a lot of my employees ... refused to accept the proposition I made which might have kept us going, and forced me to do the only thing that I could think of to do, sell the paper to someone, without, of course, allowing them to use the name Gazette and Daily, which to my mind was precious and should never be dirtied by being used by someone who did not understand the things it stood for."[140]

In selling his newspaper to three local attorneys, Gitt insisted on retiring the *Gazette* portion of the title, which he always said dated back to 1795 with *Die York Gazette*. Also, the paper was often called simply "the York Gazette." His son, Charles M. Gitt, president of the company at the time of the sale, told a *New York Times* reporter, "It is like retiring the number of a star baseball player."[141] The new newspaper, the *York Daily Record*, was nothing like its predecessor. Not only was it standard-size, it was middle-of-the-road, "cleansed" as one local reader put it. The paper does claim *The Gazette and Daily* as its predecessor, however, as noted in a special "history" supplement published June 16, 1984.[142] In the mid-1970s, the old *Gazette and Daily* building was razed and turned into a church parking lot; the *Daily Record* moved to modern facilities on the outskirts of York. It is now owned by the Buckner News Alliance of Seattle, far removed from the paper's local roots.

Readers from New York to Los Angeles and many places in between wrote letters to Gitt expressing their sadness at *The Gazette and Daily*'s demise. Only a few notes came from York County readers who were not former employees or friends of the family. Gitt would not let on that he was bothered by so few expressions of condolence from local readers. "I

just tried to do my best," he was quoted in a *Nation* article about the paper's closing. "But I like what the Dutch baker said when the folks wouldn't eat his bread, 'Apparently, it was none too good.' "[143] A reply came in a letter to Gitt from Daniel S. Gillmor, a New York writer who had been active in the Progressive Party campaign:

> I have just read Jim Higgins' obit of *The Gazette and Daily*, including the last line quoting your story of the Dutch baker. Jess, the loaf you baked all these years was too rich for their blood, too whole the wheat, too lacking in fake additives, and assorted adulterants. How could you expect to compete with Wonder Bread journalism? Hell, you wouldn't have tried.[144]

In Summary

Were J. W. Gitt and his newspaper "a voice in the wilderness"? Perhaps not as long as they could draw forth a letter such as the one from M. Helen Gladfelter of Hungerford, Pa., a small town south of York almost on the Maryland line. She wrote on October 26, 1970:

> May these few words of thankfulness and appreciation of your years of service and love to the people of York County reach you.
>
> Truly the "Pen is Mightier Than the Sword." That's what papers are for, with editors to be at the helm.
>
> Thank you for your moral ethics and then the strength to abide by and follow through. The public rarely admires or condones one who has moral ethics and then follows through; they yearn for the one that follows the pack.
>
> However, one must live with themselves and it's a feeling of satisfaction to know in your heart you've done the right thing.
>
> May you bask in the feeling of having done a job sincerely and forthrightly.[145]

Those traits in Gitt cannot be questioned, particularly during the years and concerning the issues of the Cold War era. He did not operate his newspaper to make money, but for the purpose of having a voice in the community and in the country that he loved. Even if he sometimes seemed too idealistic, a little naive, too bull-headed — even if his words were too homespun for some tastes —[146] "that man Gitt" exercised his rights as a journalist to their fullest extent. He tried to influence public policy both through *The Gazette and Daily* and through his personal correspondence with prominent leaders of the time, as well as his work within the Progressive Party.

His was a positive "voice in the wilderness" — one full of hope and promise. J. W. Gitt believed the public would heed his voice and fulfill what he perceived to be the ideals of Jeffersonian democracy. "Much of the paper's influence cannot be measured. It served as a super-ego, a conscience for the community. Public officials knew that they were being closely watched and could get by with nothing because the paper was looking over their shoulders," commented Charles-Gene McDaniel, a reporter for *The Gazette and Daily* from 1955 to 1958, after receiving a

master's degree from the Medill School of Journalism. Since 1979 he has been director of the journalism program at Roosevelt University in Chicago. Of the dozen former editorial staffers interviewed, McDaniel gave the most concrete answer to the question: "What lasting value did J. W. Gitt's newspaper have?" He wrote:

> *The Gazette and Daily* was what a newspaper should be and what none now is — and, alas, probably never will be again, since the bottom line now determines newspaper policies and not public interest. I am nostalgic about the paper and recall in particular the professionalism that characterized its staff as well as the considerable talent that was gathered on that paper and its primary concern for the public welfare. ...
>
> Its alumni are scattered across the country, many of them trying to continue individually to fight the battles *The Gazette and Daily* fought, fighting against even greater odds; so the paper has achieved a kind of immortality.[147]

NOTES

1. Richard J. Walton, *Henry Wallace, Harry Truman, and the Cold War* (New York: The Viking Press, 1976), pp. 149-150.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 149.
3. *Ibid.*
4. *The New English Bible* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970), p. 860.
5. See: "Pride of York County," *Newsweek*, Jan. 11, 1965, pp. 56-57.
6. The Continental Congress sat in York from Sept. 30, 1777, to June 21, 1778.
7. See Daniel Machalaba, "The York Dispatch Might Get Excited If Martians Invade," *The Wall Street Journal*, April 7, 1982, p. 1.
8. *The Gitt Family* (a three-page, family-printed pamphlet, n.d.), p. 1.
9. James Higgins, "Good-by, Mr. Gitt," *The New York Times*, Dec. 22, 1973, p. 25. (Also see: James Higgins, "A Reporter Reflects: The York Gazette and Daily," *Nieman Reports*, xxviii, 3, Autumn 1974, pp. 18-22, and Winter 1975, pp. 49-53.)
10. McKinley C. Olson, ed., *J. W. Gitt's Sweet Land of Liberty* (New York: Jerome S. Ozer, Publisher Inc., 1975), p. 11
11. *Ibid.*, pp. 9-10.
12. From conversations with Elizabeth Moul Gitt, another native Hanoverian who married J. W. Gitt on June 12, 1913.
13. Saul Miller, "150 Years Old and Still Fighting," *PM Sunday Magazine*, July 7, 1946, p. 7.
14. "The Men of Nineteen Four of Franklin and Marshall College, compiled for their 25th anniversary," a pamphlet, 1929.
15. "The Gazette and Daily, June 24th, 1918, Our Purposes," Josiah W. Gitt Papers, Box 1, File 8. (The Josiah W. Gitt Papers, Pattee Library, Historical Collections, the Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, 16802. Henceforth, simply "JWG" — with date only if a letter since correspondence is filed chronologically; with box and file number if other material. There are two large boxes containing a total of 49 files. All materials are photocopies; the originals are retained by Mrs. Gitt.)
16. Olson, *op. cit.*, p. 9.
17. *Ibid.*, p. 224.
18. *Ibid.*, p. 21.
19. Richard Hofstadter, *The Age of Reform* (New York: Vintage Books, 1955), pp. 144-145.
20. "Crossing T's, Dotting I's," *The Gazette and Daily*, April 30, 1947, p. 16.
21. From conversation with Mrs. Gitt.
22. The political term "Progressive" will be capitalized when referring either to members of the early twentieth century party or to that during the 1948 Presidential campaign; "progressive" will refer to a political viewpoint.
23. The above "profile of a Progressive" was drawn from reading Gitt's correspondence

and editorials, and from these books: Charles Forcey, *The Crossroads of Liberalism: Croly, Weyl, Lippmann and the Progressive Era, 1900-1925*; Richard Hofstadter, *The Age of Reform*; Christopher Lasch, *The New Radicalism in America, 1889-1963*; David W. Noble, *The Paradox of Progressive Thought*; and Morton White, *Social Thought in America, The Revolt Against Formalism*.

24. Olson, *op. cit.*, p. 181.

25. *Ibid.*, p. 141.

26. From conversation with Mrs. Gitt.

27. James Aronson, *The Press and the Cold War* (Indianapolis — New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1970), p. 24.

28. George Seldes, *Never Tire of Protesting* (New York: Lyle Stuart, Inc., 1968), pp. 276-277.

29. From the awards themselves in Gitt's personal papers, news stories about them in *The Gazette and Daily*, and a letter from F. Bradley Lynch, vice president, corporate communications, N. W. Ayer, Feb. 19, 1980.

30. JWG, April 26, 1949.

31. Nat Hentoff, "The Father of Some of Us All," *The Village Voice*, March 29, 1973, p. 27. The column was a tribute to George Seldes.

32. From reading Gitt's correspondence; and from knowledge obtained while this author was a reporter on *The Gazette and Daily*, 1963-1966.

33. Letter from Carol Gable, York, PA, Jan. 30, 1980.

34. *Ibid.*

35. Curtis D. MacDougall, *Gideon's Army*, 3 vols. (New York: Marzani & Munsell, 1965), chap. 33, vol. 3. The Progressive Party never was allowed on the ballot in the state of Illinois.

36. JWG, May 3, 1948.

37. JWG, May 12, 1948.

38. Interview with Robert Gildart, East Lansing, MI, March 8, 1977.

39. MacDougall, *op. cit.*, vol. 1, pp. 81-82.

40. According to MacDougall, Gitt was "the heaviest donor to the Progressive coffers." *Gideon's Army*, vol. 3, p. 831.

41. From the "Henry A. Wallace Chronology" in *Guide to a Microfilm Edition of the Henry A. Wallace Papers at the University of Iowa* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Libraries, 1974), pp. 7-8; also *The Story of Henry Wallace*, pamphlet (New York: National Wallace for President Committee, n.d.).

42. JWG, Feb. 27, 1947.

43. "Defeat Reaction or Suffer Chaos, Wallace Warns Here," *The Gazette and Daily*, April 29, 1946, p. 1. (It was the paper's policy not to use by-lines on news stories.)

44. JWG, Aug. 1, 1944.

45. MacDougall, *op. cit.*, vol. 1, p. 81.

46. Norman D. Markowitz, *The Rise and Fall of The People's Century: Henry A. Wallace and American Liberalism, 1941-1948* (New York: The Free Press, 1973), pp. 257-258.

47. "The Story of Gideon," MacDougall, *op. cit.*, vol. 1, p. 3; and the Book of Judges, chapters 6-8 inclusive.

48. *The Story of Henry Wallace, op. cit.*

49. Conversation with Walt Partymiller, *The Gazette and Daily*'s editorial cartoonist for 25 years, York, PA, June 16, 1978.

50. "War-With-Russia Talk is 'Criminal'," *The Gazette and Daily*, Sept. 14, 1946. (JWG, box 1, file 2.)

51. Markowitz, *op. cit.*, pp. 181-193.

52. Olson, *op. cit.*, p. 59.

53. Thompson was assistant attorney general of the United States, 1913-1918, then was appointed by Wilson in 1918 to the Federal Trade Commission for a seven-year term and served twice as its chairman. His law firm was Bright, Thompson and Mast.

54. Hull had been a friend since the 1920s when, as a member of Congress from Tennessee, he went to York to speak at the second annual observance of Wilson's birthday, on Dec. 28, 1926. He also was honored as the former chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Gitt and Hull corresponded rather frequently throughout the 1940s.

55. JWG, Feb. 5, 1943.

56. JWG, Feb. 6, 1943.

57. JWG, Feb. 10, 1943.

58. *Let's Come Out Fighting!*, pamphlet (New York: United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America, 1947), p. 5.*

59. Aronson, *op. cit.*, p. 25.

60. Markowitz, *op. cit.*, p. 126. (The NC-PAC was created by the CIO in June, 1944, in a response to conservative attempts to use the Smith-Connally Act to restrict the activities of the CIO-Political Action Committee, the liberal branch. It raised funds for the Democratic national campaign. The Independent Voters Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions was reorganized after the campaign as the ICCASP. According to Markowitz: "Although both organizations contained important administrative officers with close connections to the Communist party, the leading journals of liberal opinion all agreed that the activities of the citizens committees and the CIO-PAC represented the most encouraging development in American politics since the rise of the New Deal.")

61. Mary Sperling McAuliffe, *Crisis on the Left: Cold War Politics and American Liberals, 1947-1954* (Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1978), p. 5.

62. JWG, Jan. 7, 1947.

63. JWG, June 3, 1946.

64. JWG, Jan. 21, 1947.

65. McAuliffe, *op. cit.*, p. 7. (Also see: John S. Rosenberg, "The A. D. A.'s Long Shadow," *The Nation*, Feb. 23, 1980, p. 208.)

66. JWG, Jan. 27, 1947.

67. *Ibid.*

68. "What Progressives Can Do," *The Gazette and Daily*, Jan. 22, 1947.

69. Political terms as used in this paper generally have the following meanings: both "liberals" and "progressives" defended capitalism, saying that society's problems must have social solutions, rather than changes in the economic system as "socialists" would advocate. Progressives wanted more government regulation, especially of big business, to avoid monopolies. The major area in which they differed from liberals during the post-World War II period was over U.S. foreign policy. Liberals generally supported President Truman's policy against the Soviet Union, whereas progressives (and Progressives) did not because they wanted peaceful co-existence with Russia. It should be understood that "Progressive" means any member of that party whose politics could be any shade left of center – including socialists and communists, and simply progressive democrats.

70. Olson, *op. cit.*, pp. 155-156.

71. See: Carle Hodge, "Gitt Ignores 'Radical' Label, Backs Wallace," *Editor & Publisher*, Oct. 9, 1948, p. 7.

72. Cedric Belfrage and James Aronson, *Something to Guard: The Stormy Life of the National Guardian, 1948-1967* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1978), p. 13. (Readers of *The Gazette and Daily* across the country had been urging Gitt to start a national weekly news supplement. Also, the Wallaceites wanted a national newspaper to support the principles of the Progressive Party. A flyer heralding the projected *National Gazette* was distributed at the Philadelphia convention in July, 1948. In the beginning, Gitt was chairman of the National Gazette, Inc.; he was to be publisher only, with no editorial influence. After the preview issue, Gitt told Belfrage and Aronson in the autumn of 1948 that he wanted out because the project was too far left for him. He turned over the subscriber list and agreed to be responsible for any outstanding debts of National Gazette, Inc. The first issue of the *National Guardian*, a tabloid-sized newsweekly, was printed in New York on October 18, 1948.)

73. McAuliffe, *op. cit.*, pp. 22-30.

74. *Ibid.*, pp. 30-31.

75. *Ibid.*, p. 32.

76. Walton, *op. cit.*, p. 145. For substantial quotation from the speech, see pp. 145-148.

77. *Ibid.*, p. 148.

78. Henry A. Wallace Papers, the University of Iowa Libraries, March 15, 1947, Ia 43-524. Henceforth, referred to simply as "HAW." They are available on microfilm. This quote is from the first paragraph, which is not included in Walton's quote.

79. *Ibid.*, and Walton, *op. cit.*, pp. 149-150.

80. "Europeans Fear Truman Doctrine, Wallace Declares," *The Gazette and Daily*, May

1, 1947, p. 1.

81. JWG, May 15, 1947.

82. Letter from Luther Kohr, former *Gazette* editorial staffer, Orlando, Fla., Jan. 16, 1979.

83. MacDougall, *op. cit.*, vol. 1, p. 224.

84. *Ibid.*, pp. 243-244. (See Chap. 12, "The Decision to Run.")

85. Henry Wallace, *Stand Up and Be Counted! Why I Choose to Run* (New York: the *New Republic*, 1947), pamphlet.

86. Markowitz, *op. cit.*, pp. 258-259.

87. Cedric Belfrage, *The American Inquisition*, 1945-1960 (Indianapolis-New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1973), p. 80.

88. JWG, Dec. 23, 1947.

89. "New Pennsylvania Progressive Party Is Formed in York," *Common Sense*, n.d., p. 1. (JWG, box 1, file 1.) (The Historical Society of York, PA, 17403, has on file the March through September, 1948, issues of *Common Sense*.)

90. "Text of Wallace Talk Before Pa. Progressive Party," *Common Sense*, n.d., p. 2. The full text is also in JWG, box 2, file 20.

91. JWG, June 1, 1948.

92. JWG, July 16, 1948.

93. MacDougall, *op. cit.*, vol. 2, p. 506.

94. *Ibid.*, p. 509.

95. JWG, April 22, 1947.

96. MacDougall, *op. cit.*, vol. 2, p. 571.

97. *Ibid.*, p. 578. The issue about whether the Communists had been influential in writing the platform and executive policy during the 1948 campaign has been laid to rest by at least one historian. Lawrence Lader, in *Power on the Left: American Radical Movements Since 1946*, states: "Progressive party policy was made by Wallace; (C.B.) Baldwin; Ralph Shikes, the director of publicity; Lew Frank, the main speechwriter; and to some extent by former Governor Elmer Benson, (Albert) Fitzgerald of the UE, Elinor Gimbel, and Jess Gitt, a Pennsylvania publisher. None was a Communist." Lader based his conclusion on several interviews with persons who had worked in the Wallace campaign. (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1979), p. 51.

98. MacDougall, *op. cit.*, vol. 2, p. 427.

99. *Ibid.*

100. Vivian Gornick, *The Romance of American Communism* (New York: Basic Books, Inc., Publishers, 1977), p. 42.

101. JWG, Jan. 2, 1955. Obviously this was a new year's mistake and should be dated Jan. 2, 1956, because Gitt's two letters of response were dated in 1956.

102. HAW, July 6, 1956, Ia51-343.

103. JWG, Jan. 12, 1949. Also see: Henry A. Christian, ed., *Louis Adamic: A Checklist*, Kent State University Press, 1971.

104. Nick Sivulich, "The Adamic Affair," *The Nation*, Jan. 29, 1983, p. 114, about Adamic's mysterious death in 1951, remarked upon in this correspondence between Gitt and Wallace.

105. HAW, Jan. 24, 1956, Ia51-344.

106. JWG, July 10, 1956.

107. MacDougall, *op. cit.*, vol. 3, inside front and back covers.

108. *Ibid.*

109. "Lind's Landslide," *The Gazette and Daily*, Nov. 4, 1948, p. 43.

110. MacDougall, *op. cit.*, vol. 3, p. 865. Tugwell had been Wallace's Undersecretary of Agriculture. His article, "Progressives and the Presidency," was published in the April, 1949, *Progressive*, which endorsed Norman Thomas, the Socialist candidate, in the 1948 election and whose editor, Morris Rubin, often explained that his magazine grew out of the LaFollette movement and was not connected with Wallace's party. MacDougall, *op. cit.*, vol. 1, pp. 291-292.

111. Interview with David Lachenbruch, New York, NY, Nov. 20, 1978.

112. JWG, Dec. 29, 1948.

113. MacDougall, *op. cit.*, vol. 3, p. 865.

114. JWG, May 12, 1949.

115. Markowitz, *op. cit.*, p. 306.
116. *Ibid.*, p. 308.
117. *Ibid.*, p. 310.
118. JWG, July 11, 1950, (to Mrs. Alice Liveright.)
119. JWG, July 7, 1950.
120. JWG, July 11, 1950.
121. MacDougall wrote Aug. 10, 1978: "Jess Gitt turned over absolutely everything that was left of the Pennsylvania organization, including the keys to the office. ... I weeded out the completely nonessential and gave all the rest to the University of Iowa special libraries. I went over everything and nowhere was there any hint of resignations." According to Robert A. McCown, manuscripts librarian, The University of Iowa, July 31, 1979: "The C.B. Baldwin Papers and the Progressive Party Records of Curtis MacDougall are both large manuscript collections. Both are arranged by subject and not in chronological order." He and a colleague conducted a search for Gitt's letter of resignation but could not find it. Perhaps he only resigned orally in talking with Garfield.
122. HAW, July 11, 1950, Ia46-628. Imbrie had been chairman of the New Jersey Independent Citizens Committee, a PCA affiliate. Wallace's use of the word "resignations" would indicate that Gitt did resign from both state and national organizations.
123. Henry A. Wallace, "Personal Statement on the Korean Crisis," *The Gazette and Daily*, July 18, 1950, p. 17.
124. "Wallace Leaves Progressive Party Over Korea Issue," *The Gazette and Daily*, Aug. 9, 1950, p. 1. (JWG, box 1, file 2.)
125. Markowitz, *op. cit.*, p. 311.
126. JWG, Aug. 14, 1950, (to Dr. Marion Hathaway, Silver Lake, NH).
127. JWG, Aug. 19, 1950, (to Miss Rebecca P. Elliott).
128. JWG, Aug. 31, 1950. (Gitt was never precise in spelling "communist" with a small "c" or a capital "C".)
129. Letter from John T. Hough, Falmouth, MA, Sept. 29, 1977.
130. "The Korean Crisis," *The Gazette and Daily*, June 28, 1950 (JWG, box 1, file 4).
131. "The Peace of the World," *The Gazette and Daily*, June 30, 1950 (JWG, box 1, file 4).
132. "The Korean Conflict," *The Gazette and Daily*, July 5, 1950 (JWG, box 1, file 4).
133. McKinley C. Olsen sic., "Greening of a Nuclear Critic," *The Sunday Sun*, Baltimore, MD, April 8, 1979, p. K-1. Olson recalled that on Jan. 1, 1959, as a reporter for *The Gazette and Daily*, "fresh out of Northwestern University's Graduate School of Journalism," he was assigned to cover the development of nuclear power in York County along the west bank of the Susquehanna River. See his book on the nuclear power plant controversy, *Unacceptable Risk*, Bantam Books, revised edition, 1979.
134. Personal observation by this author.
135. JWG, Aug. 21, 1947.
136. Letter from Gene Gilmore, Urbana, IL, March 3, 1977.
137. *Ibid.*
138. Interview with Robert Klein, New York, NY, May 9, 1979. (Also letter, March 28, 1979.)
139. JWG, October 2, 1970.
140. JWG, July 4 and 25, 1973, from Seldes. Undated, typed original draft reply from Gitt, JWG, Box 2, File 19.
141. Donald Janson, "Paper's Sale Stills Editor's Liberal Voice in Conservative York," *The New York Times*, Oct. 25, 1970, p. 74.
142. "History," *An Inside Look: York Daily Record*, June 16, 1984, pp. 2-4
143. James Higgins, "Jess Gitt's *Gazette*," *The Nation*, Nov. 16, 1970, p. 497.
144. JWG, Nov. 17, 1970.
145. JWG, Oct. 26, 1970.
146. Gitt believed in simple expression of sometimes complex thoughts. In fact, the paper's reporters were directed to keep in mind that many of its York County readers had not progressed beyond the eighth grade.
147. Letter from Charles-Gene McDaniel, Chicago, IL, April 12, 1979.

* The Wallace pamphlets cited are on deposit in the Russel B. Nye Special Collections, Michigan State University Library, East Lansing, MI 48824.

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